Obituary for A. M. Challeen

A. M. CHALLEEN LAID TO REST

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 2:30 from the armory in this city for A. M. Challeen, retired merchant, who passed away at the home here early Tuesday morning, June 26th after a lingering illness. Rev. Thompson of the local Presbyterian church conducted the very impressive service which was largely attended, and interment was made in Birchwood cemetery.

Members of Mt. Olivet lodge in this city, and visiting brothers from adjacent towns, attended in a body. A uniformed escort from Damascus Commandry in St. Paul was also in attendance and two of the brothers stood at attention at the casket up to the time the service began.

Music for the service at the armory and for the Masonic burial rites at the cemetery was rendered by a male quartet from St. Paul Lodge no. 3. Their part in the ritual service was particularly impressive, especially when the brothers marched past the grave of the departed and dropped their acacia sprigs on his casket. The Masonic service was in charge of Mr. Clarence Kraemer of St. Paul lodge no. 3.

Casket bearers were employees of the store, namely William Stelzner, Frank Bartos, Jess Greenly, Robert Carpenter, Chet Sedlund, and Rudy Skalicky.

Aside from the uniformed escort and the members of other St. Paul lodges, Potentate McGeary and Recorder Walter King of Osman Temple were present. Lodges represented in the funeral procession were those from North Branch, Rush City, Cambridge, Braham, Hinckley, Sandstone and Mora, and the local lodge.

Friends who wished to view the remains had an opportunity to do so as the body was taken to the armory at one o'clock where it laid in state until the time of the service.

Mr. Challeen had not been in good health for some time, and in March of this year he went to Rochester for a check-up. It was found that an operation was necessary, so he came home to arrange his affairs, and then went back for the ordeal. While being conditioned for the surgery thru blood transfusions, he suffered a severe stroke from which he never recovered. This stroke made it impossible to go on with the operation, so after a few weeks there, he came on home and spent a short time at the Pokegama Sanatorium before going to the family home. Since the fore part of April his condition has not been good and the past ten days saw a decided change for the worse, until death came as a sweet release from the pain that tortured his body and spirit.

Business places generally closed during the hours of service out of respect to the memory of this man who had for the past quarter century was active in the business life of the city, and who only relinquished the reins to younger hands when his health began to fail.

Andrew Magnus Challeen was born at Dals Ed, Soken Rolanda, Dalsland, Sweden, July 20th 1863, and was 70 years 11 months and 6 days old at the time of his death. He came to this country in 1880 and settled first at Rush City, where he found employment in a store owned by Karl Ramberg. After some time spent there this young man moved to Danewood where he started a little store of his own, later moving it to Braham, when the village was founded. This was before the coming of the railroad to that section and goods had to be taken in by stage.